

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

July 2, 2017

THE CANE

This past week was a bit of a struggle for me. I had a problem with my back, my sciatic nerve to be exact, which affected my leg also. Because of this problem for several days I used a cane to walk with, it supported me and kept me stable as I walked. Most of the time this cane sits in the back of a closet, but it's great to have it when you need it.

Our son, Kirk is often seen carrying a cane. He has at times had to use it for the same reasons as I, but most of the time he carries it for a different reason. He teaches Martial Arts and one of the forms he practices is called "Bartitsu," which is called a "Mixed Martial Arts Form." Basically Bartitsu is a form of martial arts that uses a cane as a defensive weapon.

I know it may seem strange to be writing about a cane, but I'm mentioning this because of a comment by a member of our church family, Gary. Recently he said, "Some folks say, 'your religion is a cane (or a crutch) to get you through life when you can't cope,' and they are right, but that's not a bad thing, it's the way it is suppose to be."

I hadn't thought of it in that context before, but he is exactly right. We who are Christians have something that those who are not Christians don't have. We have a hope, a faith, a belief in someone greater than any problem we can face on earth. While dealing with my back injury there were a couple of times that my cane kept me from falling

when my leg gave out. It supported me and did exactly what a cane is supposed to do. Our cane (or our crutch), is Christ and His church and it is doing exactly what it is suppose to be doing; helping and supporting us, keeping us from, falling. Hebrews 4:15 tells us, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin." Christ understands and supports us, holds us up when we are about to fall, "IF" we hold tight to him as our cane and our support.

In a different application a spiritual cane is also that which is used to protect us and fight against Satan, (The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church, Matthew 16:18). That shows an aggressive approach to fighting Satan... so our cane, our crutch is useful in that way also. There are times that we as Christians must take a stand against Satan and Sin!

So, my conclusion to all of this is that yes, Christ and his church are my cane, my crutch, and I'm proud of it, because I know my weakness, I know how easily I can fall. Maybe you need to become more involved in the use of this cane to lift up yourself and others. Each of us have a choice; we can leave Christ leaning in the back of the closet or take him out and make him a real part of our lives. Could it be that you need to learn to lean on Christ and his Church a little more than you do?

Russ Lawson
MessagesFromTheHeart.com

PRAY FOR...

Bennett, Jim: health concern
Carter, Roland, Jim L's relative, health
Cave, Susan, recovering from surgery
Cech, Matthew: Terry's relative, mitochondrial disease
Chambers, Harrison and Roger: Alfred's brothers, health
Chapman-Macintosh family, Katelyn's friends, loss of baby
Dailey, Wendy: Darrell's wife, great scan
Deaton, Mike: Katelyn's friend, heart
Dupell, Henry: tumors
Duprey, Karina: Earl's niece, cancer
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John's friend, cancer
Hewson, Cheryl: Chris' friend's aunt, cancer
Kashorek, Lori: lung cancer/recoveryfrom surgery
Kemp, Pauline and Frank: Christina's friends, struggles
Lebeau, Steve: John's friend, health
Lermineau, Sean: Carl's relative, struggles
LePage, Gail: Jim L's mom, health
LePage, Jim Sr.: Jim L's dad, recovery from hand accident
McCoy, Wendy:
Miller, Amber: chemo after cancer-free
Miller, Francis: Jody's dad, tests
Miller, Jody: testing, surgery on 6/26
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia
New jobs: Bekah, Garth, and Katelyn
Provost, Emilie: job opportunity & training
Richardson, Elizabeth. Eddie's sister, health
Spencealther, Carrie:
Stone, Arnold, Lynn's uncle, esphogeal cancer
St. Pierre, Lynn, health
Trevellers: Lori and her Dad
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers' mother, health

"Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins."

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office: 518-563-2970
www.plattsburghchurch.com

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509
available: Sun. & Tues. 12-3 p.m. or by appt.

Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...



Camp Hunt season started this Saturday and will continue through July with opportunities to serve by driving kids. Discussions need to start about a possible real multi-day VBS at the end of August. We will need to have adults committed to various tasks and kids committed to coming for this great ministry project to work. What would you be willing to do?

Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- in July, Rachel will do mission work in Ghana for three weeks.
- in September, Mary Clackler will work in Kiev, Ukraine, with Let's Start Talking. Mary is short about \$1,600 for her \$3,600 LST trip. She has donation envelopes if you are able to help.

We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 1
Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: Invite a friend and bring a dish for our 4th Sunday meal on 7/23 after worship.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: the next 1st Sunday breakfast is on 8/6 at 8 a.m.

Doug's Devotional

"Samuel said, 'Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel'" 1 Samuel 15:17.

One who did not handle the balance of governing himself while submitting to God was Israel's first king, Saul. When first called to be king, Saul was found hiding among the baggage. He had humble beginnings, but Saul failed to keep himself small in his own eyes. Soon he had erected a statue in his own honor and Samuel was dispatched to hear why Saul had not completely done what God had asked him to do. Telling of Saul's balance problem is his insistence that he had "carried out the Lord's instructions" when clearly Agag the Amalekite was still alive as well as were Agag's sheep and cattle. These, Saul justified, were spared so that he might sacrifice them to God. Samuel's point about God delighting in obedience over sacrifice speaks to us today. We all, like Saul, are in a daily battle to keep our spiritual balance. Knowing God's command, we nevertheless justify missteps around complete obedience while all the while believing that we are delighting God. How's your spiritual balance in obeying God?

Camp Hunt Update

- five are signed up for Camp Hunt for General A 7/1-8 and Intermediate 7/15-22 weeks.
- Kim driving 7/1, 7/8; Mary Cl driving 7/15; John driving 7/22
- health forms are needed from all our youth for the church's records.

Smoke-Free Campus

Hospitals and colleges have banned smoking because of the mixed message it sends. The shepherds are very concerned about the message smoking on or in front of our building and grounds gives to our teens, children, neighbors, and potential seekers looking for a church home. Therefore, as of 8/28, no smoking or use of tobacco products will be permitted on our campus. Thank you for helping us to make our church a more attractive place for families and worshippers.

Sundae Toppings

Today: 18 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
7/9, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
7/16, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
7/23, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal
7/30, 5th Sunday



Key Word Search



Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11a.m. 7 p.m.
In Search of the Lord's Ways: "A New Spirit"
Key to the Kingdom: "Weak or Strong?"

2017 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 183-Proverbs 23-27
Day 184-Proverbs 28-31; Ecc. 1
Day 185-Ecclesiastes 2-6
Day 186-Ecclesiastes 7-11
Day 187-Ecc. 12; Song of Songs 1-4

When is your time with God?



Mark Your Calendar

7/1-8, Camp Hunt General A Week
7/2, John's birthday
7/4, Jim L's birthday in Christ ('00)
7/7, Doug's birthday
7/15-22, Camp Hunt Intermediate Week
7/19, Lori's birthday
7/20, Rose's birthday
7/30, Hogan anniversary ('16)
7/31, Marlaina's birthday

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning sign-up for July is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Today:7/2

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Carl
Song Leader: Steven
#453 "Love Lifted Me"
#616 "The Way of the Cross"
#324 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?"
Talk/bread prayer: Garth
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard
Pass/collection prayer: Jim L
#539 "Higher Ground"
Scripture Reading: Jim B - 1 Samuel 15:17-20
Lesson: Doug "Once Small in Your Own Eyes"
#337(Red Bk) "Is Thy Heart Right with God?"
Closing Song: John
#PP "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
Closing Prayer: Jody
Subs: AC, EB, CC, TM

Next Sunday: 7/9P

Announcements: Alfred
Opening Prayer: Jody
Song Leader: Jim L
Talk/bread prayer: John
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Tyler
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
Scripture Reading: Chris - 2 Samuel 7:8-16
Lesson: Doug "I Will Establish His Kingdom"
Closing Song: Steven
Closing Prayer: Jim B

Week of June 25

Bible Class	26
Morning Worship	30
Wed. Bible Class	19
Contribution	\$512.13
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$550.00

May→June Averages; 1 Year Ago

Sun. Bible Class Ave. 23→26; 17
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 35→35; 32
Wed. Bible Class Ave. 15→16; 13
Weekly Contribution Ave.\$564.38→\$514.76;\$612.34
Yearly Contribution Ave. (43 weeks) \$637.23